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February 2019

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Melville Homer Cummings

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#### EXAMINATION ON HOMILETICS.

- I. Give some evidences of a "call" to preach.
- Ans. 1. A conviction that one ought to preach.
  - 2. A desire to preach.
- 3. The possession of the natural qualifications-physical, intellectual, and spiritual.
- 4. The approving judgment of the Church, or a recognition of his call by others.
- II. State the degree of preparation necessary for the ministry.

Ans .- 1.

III. An ideal "work-shop" with requsite "tools" in it.

Ans.- By the minister's "work-shop" we mean his study.

This should be easily accessible, yet free from ordinary intrusion.

It needs no outlook, but should have good exposure. It is not necessary that it be very large, as space is not needed for brains.

By the minister's "tools" are meant the books in his study. It is desirable that he should have those books that open up the varied mines of truth, but it is indispensable to have those that help in seeking and finding the great spoil of Scripture. The books that will grow in his study are the scrap-book, the common-place book, the text-book, the lecture-room-talk-book, and the record book. Care should be taken in the buying, reading, and studying of books. A book-case and revolving shelf are very







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Christian's life. It is the guardian of faith, the preserver of pear peace, the cherisher of love, and the teacher of humility. It governs the flesh, strengthens the spirit, stifles anger, axtinguishes envy, subdues pride, bridles the tongue, restrains the hand, tramples upon temptations, endures persecutions, and consummates martyrdom. It produces unity in the church, loyalty in the state, harmony in families, and success in business; it comforts the poor, and moderates the rich; it makes us humble in prosperity, cheerful in adversity, unmoved by calumny and reproach; it teaches us to forgive those who have injured us and to be the first in asking forgiveness of those whom we have injured; it adorns the woman and beautifies the man; is loved in a child, praised in a young man, admired in an old man, and is beautiful in either sex, in every clime and every age.

Patience is like a seed that is buried in frozen soil; the snow storms may howl aboveit, and winter, with his frosty keys, turn the locks, and leave it to neglect and silence; but the year is isling through its cycle, and at last she turns up her face to be kissed by the sun of summer; then the seed feels the quickening, and out of the mold, and the darkness, and the silence, it comes as a flower, in its proper season, in beauty, and sweetness and strength.

So a man, through long winters of neglect, while the storm wind of adversity may howl around him, and the world turn away in deafness and leave him in silence, still patiently waits and toils and grows strong; and in his proper season his works and deeds are like summer in people's hearts, and he stands, like the tiny seed, rounded, and full, and manly, and complete.

Every man must patiently abide his time. He must wait. It is not in listless idleness; not in useless pastime; not in querulous defection; but in incessant, steady, chearful endeavor, always willing and fulfilling his task, that when the occasion occasion he may be equal

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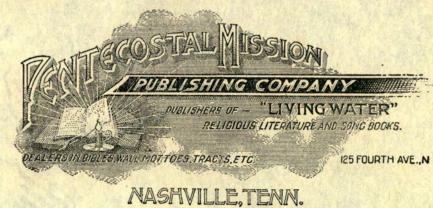
THE CONSCOUENCE OF OBEDIENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE.

Text:- Deut. 11:26,27,28.

Nothwithstanding the fact that God is a Sovereign, and has all power in Heaven and in earth, He does not interfere with the free-moral agency of man. This is proven by the constitution which He has given him. Man has the ability to choose between right and wrong, and he is cognizant of it. The savage recognizes this as spontaneously as does the philosopher; the child as decisively as the scholar; and he who would theoretically deny it, must do so in the language of the hypthesis which he denies.

challenge you to find a single passage of Scripture that asserts, or even indicates that God uses coercive means in bringing men to Him. Although HE loves the sinner with an everlasting love, He does not compel him to get saved. He simply gives him gives him his choice between life and death, and between a blessing





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and a curse.

"Order is Heaven's first law," and "obedience is better than sacrifice." It is the will of God that all men obey Him, and when even nations disobey H

#### EXAMINATION ON HOMILETICS.

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- 4. The approving judgment of the Church, or a recognition of his call by others.
  - II. State the degree of preparation necessary for the ministry.

Ans. This is rather difficult to answer as there is such a diversity of opinion in regard to it. At any rate, he should understand men, know his Bible, and get all the literary knowledge he can.

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valuable.

IV. The selection of themes.

Ans.- In selecting a theme, we should bear three things in mind,-

- 1. Our knowledge of the theme.
- 2. The need of the people to whom we are to speak.
- 3. The leading of the Spirit.

V. How to make a sermon.

Ans. - After carefully observing the above in regard to the selection of the theme or text, we should secure all the information we can on the subject about which we are to speak. Having done this, we should make an outline of all the material in hand, and then develope it. It is often a good thing to revise the outline to secure greater unity, coherence, and emphasis.

VI. How to behave after delivering the sermon.

Ans. If much vitality has been expended in delivering the sermon, it is best for his physical and mental benefit for him to retire as soon as possible and rest. If the service has been a very successful one and "all men speak well of him," he should not feel self-important but should give God the glory; if he has made a failure, he should not get discouraged but "be strong in the Lord, and the power of His might." As a rule the least he says about his sermons, the best.

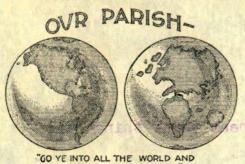
VII. What should we preach?

Ans.- We should "preach the Word." 2 Tim. 4:2. Christ crucified should be our central theme.

VIII. State objections to preaching from manuscripts.

The state of the s

Ans .- 1. It is liable to lack naturalness and direct address.





The need of the people to whom we are to speak.

3. The Landing of the Chieft.

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WITT, State objections to presching from manuscripts.

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- 2. It is liable to become mechanical in its delivery.
- 3. The lessened probability of riveting attention.
- 4. The bondage to a prescribed course, thus making it impossible to express the thoughts that are suggested while speaking.

IX. What are the dangers peculiar to extemporaneous preaching?

Ans .- 1. It is apt to be desultory.

- 2. It is apt to be superficial.
- 3. It is apt to be unsymmetrical in the treatment of a subject.

X. What should be the length of the discourse?

Ans.- There can be no definite length given. This depends largely upon the occassion, the interest manifested by the audience, and the subject for discussion.

XI. What is the purpose of illustrations?

Ans. To make obvious some obscure passage of Scripture, or trut
They are to the sermon what windows are to the house. It is best
not to have too many, as the house should not be all windows.

XII. How is sameness in themes to be avoided?

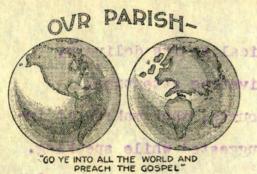
Ans .- 1. Fidelity to the text.

- 2. Record of previous talks.
- 3. Needs of the flock.
- 4. Student habit.

XIII. Suggest errors in gestures and voice.

Ans .- 1. In gestures.

- (a) Mannerism.
- (b) Inappropiateness.
- (c) Awkwardness.
- (d) Frequent use of the same gesture.
- (e) Unnaturalness.



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(a) Manneriten.

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- 2. In voice.
  - (a) Too loud.
  - (b) Too low.
- (c) Lack of adapting the voice to the truth to be expressed.
  - (d) Monotony.

XIV. What is the aim of the gospel ministry?

Ans .- Perfect manhood in Christ.

XV. Mention certain habits of the ideal minister.

- Ans .- 1. The habit of diligence.
  - 2. The habit of thoroughness.
  - 3. The habit of method.
  - 4. The habit of attentiveness.
  - 5. The habit of studying.
  - 6. The habit of prayer.

XVI. Mention six things the preacher should do while in the pulpit.

- Ans .- 1. He should look the audience in the face.
  - 2. He should be natural in using gestures.
  - 3.He should speak so as to be heard.
  - 4. He should stand erect and away from the pulpit.
  - 5. He should vary his tone of voice.
  - 8. He should adapt his language to the audience.

XVII. How many different methods of treating text?

Ans. - Three; viz., the explanatory, the observational, and the propositional methods.

XVIII. How far is literature other than the Bible admissible in a sermon?



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XVIII. How far is litterature other than the lible while itle

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Ans.- To the extent that it is needed by the sermon to accomplish its design, i. e., the salvation of souls.

XIX. Name the ideal cardinals, topics, qualities of style, delivery, and sermon.

Ans .- 1. The ideal cardinals.

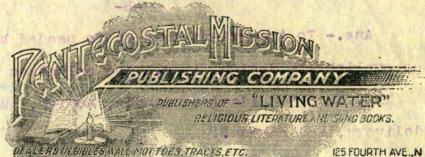
- (a) Unity.
- (b) Order.
- (c) Movement.
- 2. The ideal qualities of style.
  - (a) What it is.
  - (b) Value of.
  - (c) Objections.
- (d) Properties, perpiscuity, precision, energy, and beauty.
  - 3. The ideal topics.
    - (a) Range.
    - (b) Variety.
    - (c) Proportion.
    - (a) Method.
  - 4. The ideal delivery.
    - (a) Importance.
    - (b) Neglect.
    - (c) Acquisition.
    - (d) Sources of power.
  - 5. The ideal sermon.
    - (a) Perfect verbal form.
    - (b) Climax.
    - (c) Adaptation.
    - (d) Born of the Spirit of God.

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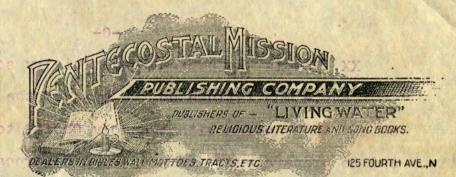
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XX. Why is the present day ministry so ineffective?

Ans. - The failure on the part of the preacher to seek and obtain the baptism with the Holy Chost, to preach the gospel, and to prepare every sermon for the purpose of bringing souls to Christ.







NASHVILLE, TENN.

Examination paper,
Homiletics,
M. Homer Cummings,
April 28, 1909.





NASHVILLE, TENN.

#### EXAMINATION ON THEOLOGY.

I. What is meant by dogma?

Ans. - The form that a doctrine assumes as a result of its development. In other words, it is man's theory of a doctrine.

II. What is the difference between Mysticism and Rationalism?

Ans.- Mysticism stresses spirituality and the Divine life in man to the neglect of outward forms and ceremonies in religious services; while Mationalism is the other extreme. It rejects all feeling and revelation and demands that everything be proven by reason.

III. What do you understand by the Inspiration of the Bible.

Ans. - There are two theories in regard to the Inspiration of the Scripture, the verbal, which teaches that every word of the Bible was the language of the Holy Spirit; and the dynamic, which teaches that the Holy Spirit worked in and through the natural faculties and gifts of man in writing the Bible. I believe the latter theory to be more nearly correct.

IV. How do we get a knowledge of God?

Ans .- By the Holy Spirit through the Word and nature.

V. Define Pantheism, Materialism, and Agnosticism.

Ans.-1. Pantheism is the doctrine that teaches God is every-

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EXAMINATION ON THEOLOGY.

I. What is meant by dogma?

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thing and everything is God.

- 2. Materialism is the doctrine that teaches that there is nothing but matter.
- 3. Agnosticism is the doctrine that claims to know nothing of God or spiritual things.

VI. Give Attributes of the Deity.

#### 1. Natural.

- (a) Omnipresence.
- (b) Unity.
- (c) Eternity.
- (d) Immutability.
- (e) Omnipotence.
- (f) Omniscience.
- (g) Invisibility.
  - (h) Incomprehensibility.

#### 2. Moral.

- (a) Wisdom.
- (b) Goodness.
- (c) Holiness.
- (d) Justice.
- (e) Mercy.
- (f) Truth.

VII. Mention several heresies regarding the person of Christ.

Ans.- Arianism, Socinianism, Sabellianism, Unitarianism,
Apollinarianism, Monothelitism, Nestorianism, Eutychianism,
Monophysitism, and Adoptianism.

VIII. What is sin?

Ans. - According to one authority, it is any disobedience to God in will or deed.







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IX. What do you understand by depravity?

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Ans.- Total depravity is the doctrine that human nature has no tendency to piety or spirituality, but has the opposite tendency, every faculty having an innate taint.

ianism?

Ans. - The chief point of divergency between Pelagianism and Augustianism was that the former rejected the doctrine of depravity and taught that man in himself was able to do right; while the latter held to the doctrine of depravity and taught that man without help from God was unable to do anything to better his condition.

XI. How did Christ atone for our sin?

Ans .- By His vicarious suffering and death.

XII. What are the steps in salvation?

Ans. - Revelation, Conviction, Repentance, Faith, Justification, Regeneration, Adoption, Witness of the Spirit, Growth in Grace, Sanctification, Redemption of the Body, and Glorification.

XIII. Define the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

Ans. - The Holy Spirit is the Third Person in the Trinity, and is the Chief Executive of the Godhead in this dispensation.

XIV. What is the difference between regeneration and sanctification?

Ans. - Regeneration is the gracious divine impartation of spiritual life, while sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer is freed from sin.

XV. How many judgments mentioned in the Scripture?

Ans.- According to our text-book only one general judgment,

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but I think the Bible speaks of five.

XVI. Name the different theories in regard to Church Govern-

Ans. - There are three mentioned in Bank's Manual of Christian Doctrine, - the Episcopalian, the Presbyterian, and the Congregationalist.

XVII. What is the purpose of the Sacraments?

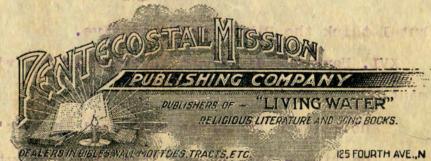
Ans .- 1. As a sign of discipleship.

2. As a symbol of the inwardy es of the Spirit's ministry.

XVIII. When will the ressurrection occur?

Ans .- When Christ comes for His saints. 1 Thes. 4:16-18.





NASHVILLE, TENN.





This oration was delivered, May 7, 1909, NASHVILLE, TENN.

Tenn. the night I was graduated from the Literary and Bible Training School (Town).

Tenn. the night I was graduated from the Literary and Bible Training School (now Trever ca College) About 50 years later, April 5, 1959, I delivered this same message at the chapel exercises to the students of Trevecca College.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

The century that has passed has altered the visage of nature and wrought a revolution in the habits of man-kind. We stand today at the dawn of an extraordinary age.

Exempt from the bonds of former thought and superstition, man has begun to win the most remarkable victories in the domain of science. One by one he has dispelled the doubts of the ancient world.

There is nothing too arduous for his hand to attempt; no region too remote, no pinnacle too lofty, and no place too hallowed for his daring eye to penetrate.

He robbed the earth of her secrets and sought to solve the mysteries of the heavens.

He has secured and chained to his service the elemental forces of nature- he has made the fire his steedthe winds his ministers- the seas his pathways-, and the lightning his messenger.

He has descended into the heart of the earth and walked in safety on the bottom of the sea.

He has raised his head above the clouds and made the impalpable air his resting place.





NASHVILLE. TENN.

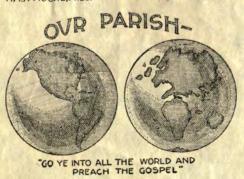
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He has endeavored to analyze the stars, to enumerate the constellations, to measure the galaxy, and to ascertain the weight of the sun.

He has advanced with such astounding speed that, breathless, we have reached a moment when it seems as if distance has been annihilated, time made as naught, the invisible seen, the inaudible heard, the unspeakable spoken, the ineffable expressed, the incongruous amalgamated, the intangible felt, and the impossible accomplished. But in all this blaze of light which illuminates the

present and casts its reflection into the distant recesses of the past there is not a single ray that shoots into, the future. Not one step have we taken towards the solution of the mystery of life. That remains as obscure and unfathomable as it did six thousand years ago.

'We think, we believe, we hope, we do not know. Across that threshold we may not pass: behind that veil we can not enter: into that country we are not permitted to go. We strive in vain to look beyond its heights. We cry aloud, and the only





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answer is the echo of our elamorous voice. From the mute lips of the unreplying dead there comes no word.

It matters not. The dispensation in which we live is but a link in the endless and eternal chain. Our lives are like the sands upon the shore; our voices like the breath of the summer breeze that stirs the leaf for a moment and is soon forgotten. Whence we have come and whither we shallgo not one of us can tell.

We only know that He who deigns to touch with Divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried acorn and make it burst fouth its prison walls, will never leave neglected the soul of man who was made in the image of the Creator; If He, who stoops to give to the rose bush, whose withered blossoms float upon the autumn's gentle wind the sweet assurance of another spring time, we will not withold the words of hope from the souls of man when the frosts of winter come; If matter, mute and inamimate, is changed into a multitude of forms that never die, the spirit of man will not suffer annihilation after it has paid a brief visit, like an oyal guest, to this tenement of clay.

And in the impenetrable future, the coming generations are advancing to take our places as we fall. For them, as for



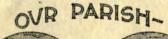


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the shall the seasons come and go, the snow flakes fall, the proversal doom, the binds sing, and the harvest be gathered in. For them, as for us, chall the great Fing of Day, like the life of man, rise out of daylness in the morning and sink into darkness in the night. For them, as for us, shall the years march by in the sublime procession of the ages.

And now unto Him who sits upon the throne of the universe, while millions of worlds encircling flaming suns, responsive to His sovereign mandate, speed their precipitate flight on their indefatigable journey through the void immense; unto Him who holds the destiny of nations in the hollow of His hand, and yet marks the fall of the sparrow; latitus lift up our hearts and into His eternal care commend ourselves.







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